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CDC RESPONSE STATUS: OPEN

DATE: 05/13/2010 as of 1500 hrs EST

REPORT PERIOD: 05/12/2010 1500 hrs EST to 05/13/2010 1500 hrs EST

DATE/TIME OF CDC EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER RESPONSE LEVEL III

ACTIVATION: 05/10/2010, 1626 EST

DATE/TIME OF INITIAL EVENT NOTIFICATION: 04/22/10, 1614 hrs EST

LOCATIONS OF EVENT: Off the coast of Louisiana in the Gulf of Mexico

LEAD AGENCY: US Coast Guard/ESF #10 – Oil and Hazardous Materials Response

LEAD CDC CIO: NCEH

DESCRIPTION: Deepwater Horizon Incident

Incident Notice – Update

SITREP #3

NARRATIVE:

- **SITUATION:** On 4/20/2010 an explosion occurred on the Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit (MODU) Deepwater Horizon. The subsequent fire continued to burn until the MODU sank. The overpressure safety devices built into the MODU drilling string have failed resulting in the largest Gulf of Mexico oil spill on record.
- **EOC ACTIVATION:** May 10, 2010, 1624 hours.
- HHS Senior Leader calls shifted from daily to M-W-F.

Overview of CDC Strategic Objectives:

- Provide assistance on all matters related to the assessment of health hazards at a response and protection of response workers and the public health.
- When presented cases of confirmed human exposure determine whether illnesses, diseases, or complaints may be attributable to exposure to a hazardous material.
- Establish disease/exposure registries and conducts appropriate clinical testing as requested.
- As it relates to the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill response, develop, maintain, and provide information on the health effects of toxic substances.

CDC ACTIVITIES:

Scientific Response Section (SRS):

- Briefed CDC SME attending the public meeting to be held tonight, 5/13/2010 in LA.
- Provided update brief for CDC Director

Worker Safety and Health Activities

- Received OMB approval number for Initial Survey form. Actual approval is pending.
- Will prepare initial survey for BP Training Contractor for inclusion in their training program in English, and in Spanish and Vietnamese once translations received.



- Working on alternative methods for getting Initial Survey form out to those workers who have been already trained and are currently working
- Working on mechanisms for linking data from Initial Survey to exposure data gathered from daily Job Tickets and Sign In sheets
- Working on worker surveillance integration from OSHA, BP, and contractors
- Determining research gaps and research needs on dispersants
- 2 Field Epidemiologists remain deployed by NIOSH to Unified Command, Houma LA
- NIOSH received OMB approval for a one page "Initial Survey" form which will serve as the primary tool for rostering workers. This form is accompanied by a two page Disclosure form which describes the privacy policy and voluntary nature of the survey.
- EOC/JIC has provided language translation services translate initial survey and disclosure forms into Spanish and Vietnamese language versions. NIOSH plans to distribute this form to as many workers as possible through various avenues for distribution to paid workers, volunteers, and federal personnel involved in the response.
- We are coordinating with BP Safety personnel to conduct a conference call with the safety officers of the 14 staging sites to get their cooperation on distributing the survey to workers in the field.
- Recent reports of workers suffering respiratory irritation on platforms floating above the spreading oil spill are being actively addressed by BP Safety Officials. Env. Exposure monitoring is being conducted at the water surface and on the deck of the platforms to assess potential exposure levels. BP toxicology specialists travel to adjacent platforms and address worker concerns in Question & Answer meetings. Air quality sampling results taken at complaint sites are reported to remain well below occupational exposure limits.

Environmental Health

- Worked with EOC GIS to prepare maps to accompany and clarify EPA sampling reviews
- Received another EPA data package this morning, making it 2 under review and 1 pending.
- Had a meeting yesterday to expand staff to review the packages. Anticipate this will allow us to keep pace with the EPA.

Epidemiology/Surveillance

- The Epi/Surv desk conducted a call on 5/11 afternoon with MS, AL, TX., FL, LA. Each state (except TX) will begin to report surveillance information on a daily basis when the Epi-X Forum is set up. As of today, the Epi-X forum is still in the process of being set up.
- MS will implement active (sentinel site) surveillance,
- AL has implemented passive surveillance of patients who indicate oil exposure,
- FL is using its ESSENCE syndromic surveillance system
- LA is conducting passive surveillance in local ERs and are expanding their outreach in the coastal areas to other primary care physicians and clinics for those who have a complaint linked to the oil spill. They have added "oil" and "odor" to their EARS syndromic surveillance system.
- As of May 13, 2010 there were 58 calls reported to Poison Control Centers (PCC). Of these, 13 were from Mississippi (5 were calls reporting potential exposure and health effects and 8 were calls for information only), 2 information and 1 exposure calls from Alabama, and 37 information and 4 exposure calls from Louisiana. See Below for additional PC background information. These numbers reflect additional backfilled data.
- Each state is receiving daily PCC information



- BioSense: No significant increases in visits for the sub-syndromes monitored were found in each state. See below for additional BioSense information. Updated information will be provided in tomorrow's SITREP.

Poison Center Surveillance

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC) use the National Poison Data System (NPDS), a national surveillance system to improve situational awareness for chemical and poison exposures based on data from US Poison Centers (PCs). PCs upload call data in near real-time to NPDS. CDC and AAPCC use NPDS daily to improve public health surveillance for chemical and poison exposures and their associated illness, identify early markers of chemical events, and enhance situational awareness during outbreaks.
- CDC has reached out to the 61 Poison Centers and has requested that any calls related to the oil spill—including informational calls and potential exposures—be assigned a temporary code. This coding will allow CDC to track the number of Poison Center calls and potential health effects. CDC is running a daily report on PC data from four Gulf Coast states (Louisiana, Florida, Alabama, and Mississippi) to quantify the magnitude of calls. This data will be included in the daily situational report. CDC will send weekly emails summarizing the weekly counts to each of the four states or immediately if CDC notices a large increase in oil related calls or other anomaly requiring epidemiologic follow-up. Follow-up will require states to contact their regional Poison Center to access detailed caller information which is not included in the data CDC receives.

BioSense Surveillance

- The BioSense Program is monitoring the proposed conditions in facilities located in the potentially affected states. BioSense has outpatient Veteran Affairs (VA) and Department of Defense (DoD) facilities in Florida, Alabama, and Mississippi and civilian hospitals in addition to VA and DoD facilities in Louisiana and Texas. Information regarding statistically significant clusters detected based on a modified C2 EARS algorithm will be reported daily.

Deployments:

- As of 13 May, CDC currently has 2 personnel deployed to Mobile, AL, and 2 personnel to Houma, LA, for a total of 4 deployed personnel.

ATSDR Liaison to EPA HQ Emergency Operations Center Desk:

- The LA Poison Control Center (PCC) is tracking calls that come into the LA, MS and AL PCCs related to the oil spill. They have reported the following information to date: General Information calls: 34 from LA, 5 from MS and 0 from AL. Human Exposure Calls: 3 from LA, 5 from MS and 1 from AL. This report was provided to The EPA EOC.
- The CDC IMS Environ/Occup Health Team Leader mailbox is now set up and all requests will be sent there. Due to technical issues we will also send a CC to NCEH SME until advised otherwise.
- The EPA air monitoring and sampling data package for 5-12-2010 was sent to the CDC IMS Environ/Occup Health Team Leader mailbox for review.
- The NCEH/ATSDR Environmental Health team is reviewing the data packages from EPA dated May 10, 2010, May 11, 2010 and May 12, 2010. At this point, ATSDR does not anticipate any increased hazard to human health related to the oil spill based on this data.
- The CDC's website for the Gulf Oil Spill Response was provided to the EPA Environmental Unit per their request.



- There is a community meeting tonight, May 13, 2010 in Plaquemines Parish, LA. A number of Federal Agencies were requested to attend by the community and BP to provide a brief overview of activities to date and be on hand to answer questions. The CDC SME from ATSDR/DRO will attend this meeting..
- The current Data Management Cycle for all data as it comes into the Environmental Unit:
- **Beginning May 9 all data (monitoring, sampling, water, air, sediment) will be published to the web ONCE a day, at 1800
- The data that will be published is the data that was received the PREVIOUS DAY. For example, the data that was received from the field May 8, will be published at 1800 on (May 9.) The data that will be received today will not be published until tomorrow at 6 PM.
- Data Issues Meeting (To be held AS NEEDED): EU, OAR, Water, ATSDR, chemist, PIO, etc. OAR and Water continue to review air, water, and sediment sampling data and air monitoring data and develop standard text for any previously unpublished substances for publishing at 1800 the next day 1800 (the following day) - PIO publishes all data from the previous day (air monitoring and sampling data) and associated "headlines" to web site

Joint Information Center:

Communication Channels and Traffic:

COMMUNICATION ACTIVITY METRICS¹

		M	Tu	W	Th	F
		5.10	5.11	5.12	5.13	5.14
Web Page Views						
	CDC Chemical Emergencies Web Page	*	365	223 (-39%)		
	CDC Gulf Oil Spill Web Page	*	*	803		
Direct Inquiries						
	Public calls or emails to CDC INFO	*	0	2		
	Clinician calls or e-mails to CDC INFO	*	0	0		
	COCA emails	0	0	0		
Media Interest						
	Internet	151	331 (+119%)	530 (+60%)		
	Print	143	81 (-43%)	87 (+7%)		
	National television stories	*	952	1269 (+33%)		
	Local television stories	*	*	*		
	Total television	*	*	*		
	Journalist inquiries	3	0	*		
Twitter	# tweets/per hour					
	"Oil spill"	891	1,063	832		



			(+19%)	(-22%)		
Blogs	# blogs in 24 hr period					
	Google Blogs	25,558	187,895 (+635%)	114,530 (-39%)		

TABLE NOTES

Reporting Periods

- Twitter: current reporting date
- CDC-INFO, COCA emails, Journalist inquiries, Web, Print/Internet, TV, Blogs: 1 calendar day prior to reporting date (except May 10 Journalist inquiries, which were the total received to date)

Media Sources

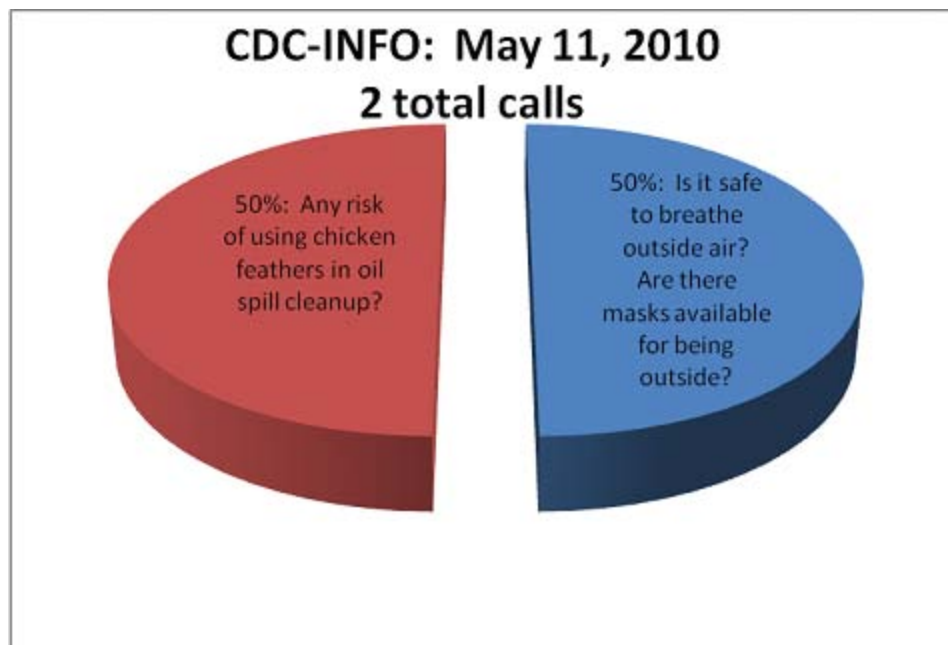
- Print/Internet: Largest daily paper and associated website in each of the top 25 U.S. media markets, and major wire services
- National TV sources: ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, and FOX News network broadcasts
- Local TV sources: affiliate broadcasts (ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX) in each of the top 25 U.S. media markets

¹ Percent change from 1 day prior to reporting date is given in parentheses

*not available by reporting deadline

AUDIENCE FEEDBACK

CDC Info Calls (N=2)



Outreach to Public:

- State Public Health Partners: In communication with LA, MS, and AL PIOs in regards to health information materials.

Posted to the website:

- Made changes to Chemical Emergencies home page at <http://emergency.cdc.gov/chemical/> to improve usability for visitors coming to the site looking for Oil Spill information.



Outreach to Responders:

- Posted the Epi-X Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill Media Report, May 13, 2010.
- Enrolled 4 AL, 2 MS and 1 LA state staff into Epi-X to participate in the NCEH Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill Forum (name subject to change at NCEH's direction).

News and Social Media Report:

PROMINENT THEMES ACROSS TRADITIONAL NEWS MEDIA

Public Health Threats

Food & Water Threats

- Fishermen say they are afraid the dispersants could create a series of widespread dead zones in the gulf, contaminating or killing marine life
- Shrimpers are worried that using dispersants at deep depths would guarantee that it would spread the oil droplets and dispersant on the sea floor, where shrimp larvae and other organisms could be affected
- Federal wildlife officials are treating the deaths of six dolphins on the Gulf Coast as oil-related
- NOAA is extending the fishing ban to the west as the oil spreads; 7 % of federal waters in the Gulf will now be closed to fishing
- Gulf spill threatens Mexico turtles and other species

Air Quality/Smell

- In the Tampa area, beachgoers reported a burning odor and complained of nausea and nasal irritation
- Areas of Bay St. Louis, Waveland and Gulfport reported pervasive petroleum smells described as a burned-plastic odor, an odd waxy smell and the smell of diesel exhaust
- The EPA is monitoring the air on the Coast constantly with two buses and a plane
- EPA recommends people who are sensitive to the odor reduce prolonged, heavy exertion outside

Skin Exposure

- *None*

Emerging Themes/Other

- Any major changes in wind or weather patterns such as a cold front or a hurricane could change which state experiences the toxic effects of the spill
- No one but Nalco Energy Services, knows exactly what's in dispersant Corexit 9500; the company says it may pose a risk for eye and skin irritations and can cause respiratory problems, but "no toxicity studies have been conducted on this product"

CDC Mentions

- The dispersant, known as Corexit, is a clear, colorless liquid that smells like ether. According to the CDC, it can cause irritation of the nose and eyes, headaches, and vomiting, if inhaled in large volumes

PROMINENT THEMES ACROSS SOCIAL MEDIA

Public Health Threats

Food & Water Threats

- A lot of animal species are at risk from the oil spill
 - Fishing and spawning grounds for shrimp, crab and oysters are being destroyed; food supply from the Gulf may be permanently damaged
 - Dolphin carcasses have been washed ashore in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama; tests are being done to see whether they are a result of the oil spill



- Fish are dying in the gulf coast
- Sea turtles and dolphins are being affected
- Research shows that oil can remain in the saltwater marshes of the Gulf for many years due to the smaller waves and calmer waters

Air Quality/Smell

- The air near oil spill contains 100 times the safe amount of toxins; testing of air quality in Louisiana will begin soon

Skin Exposure

- A look at recent oil spills shows a broad range of health effects including skin and throat irritation
- The Florida State Emergency Response Team and the Department of Environmental Protection advise people to avoid contact with oil and to wash the area with soap and water if contact occurs

Emerging Themes/Other

- The exposure to carcinogens released from benzene in the oil may have a serious health impact on the workers and fisherman who are participating in the clean up
- A look at recent oil spills shows a broad range of health effects including depression and DNA damage
- Workers from the Exxon Valdez oil spill are suffering from health issues from toxic cleanup and report various health problems associated with toxic exposure
- The chemical dispersants used to contain the oil spill may do more harm than good and are toxic
- The oil spill effects could be heightened by hurricane season

CDC Mentions

- CDC mentioned as a resource for information on health concerns associated with oil spill
- CDC warns that individuals exposed to oil slick risk getting cancer from at least one known carcinogen

Situational Awareness (SA):

- Distributed multiple SITREPS, reports, maps, etc ref DEEPWATER HORIZON (DH)
- Created CDC GIS 3 Day Oil Spill Forecast Maps
- Created new SA Slides for both the CDC DH Director's Update Brief (DUB), and the CDC Daily 0900 DH Meeting / CONCALL.
- Met with CDC DH Leadership ref DCIRs, DH Briefing formats, agendas, products, and information management.

Plans:

- Published daily SITREP and HHS EXSUM.
- Coordinated development of next IAP with IMS leadership.

Logistics: NSTR

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